REMARKS

Claims 1, 10, 31, 50, and 66 are amended. New claims 83-86 are added. After entry of the present amendments, claims 1-3, 6-15, 19, 21-35, 39-46, 48-51, 62-64, and 66-86 remain pending for examination.

Statement of The Substance Of The Personal Interview Conducted December 11, 2008

Applicants thank Examiners Hotaling and Hoel for conducting a personal interview on December 11, 2008. Applicants substantially agree with the interview summary prepared by Examiner Hoel at the conclusion of the personal interview. Applicants emphasize that Examiner Hoel agreed that the claims appeared to be allowable over the applied prior art. In particular, Harkham lacks a random number generator at the server and lacks presentment of computer-generated content at a gaming machine. These and other distinctions will be explained more fully below.
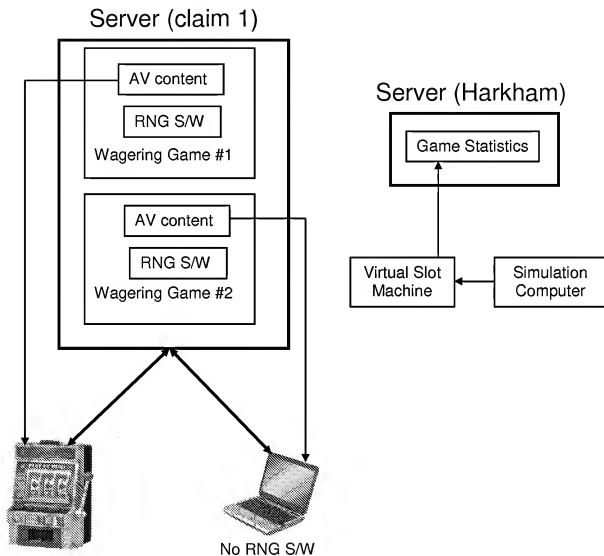
Claim Amendments

The independent claims have been amended to eliminate certain elements (e.g., directed to financial accounts and basic/enhanced versions) for the sake of clarity and to place the focus of each of the independent claims on the casino and non-casino integration aspects disclosed in the application. The deleted elements have been added as new dependent claims.

Claim Rejections

As explained during the personal interview, the combination of Harkham and Cannon fails to disclose at least: (1) random number generator (RNG) software on the central server for a wagering game conducted via a computing device; and (2) computer-generated audiovisual (A/V) content for a gaming machine offered on a central server. Applicants have drawn for the Examiner's convenience illustrations of a non-limiting aspect of claim 1 versus Harkham's "virtual slot machine" embodiment cited in the Office Action as corresponding to the claimed RNG software to help highlight key differences between the claimed invention and Harkham. For convenience, some of the claim terms have been replaced with abbreviated colloquial terms. For example, "the audio visual content including computer-generated image and animation data

representing the random event" is described as "A/V content," and "game software for generating a random event" is described as "RNG S/W [software]." These substitutions are not intended to limit the scope of the claimed invention; rather, they are made merely for ease of discussion.

Server (claim 1)

AV content

RNG S/W

Wagering Game #1

AV content

RNG S/W

Wagering Game #2

Server (Harkham)

Game Statistics

Virtual Slot Machine

Simulation Computer

No RNG S/W

(1)   Harkham does not disclose server-based RNG software for presentment at a computing device

As can be seen from the above illustrations, in claim 1, the A/V content for game #1 offered on the server is presented at the gaming machine, and the A/V content for game #2 also

offered on the server is presented at the computer. The RNG software for game #2 is executed at the server, not at the computer.

By contrast, in the embodiment cited by the Office Action at Page 3 as corresponding to the claimed game software, the virtual slot machine is simulated by a simulation computer, Harkham, p. 14, l. 18, which is distinct from the server on which the game statistics are stored, Harkham, p. 14, ll. 19-22. The above illustration on the right shows that the role of the simulation computer is to simulate the virtual slot machine, whereas the role of the server is to store game statistics. There is no suggestion whatever in Harkham that the server can store RNG software for the virtual slot machine.

(2) Harkham-Cannon does not disclose server-based A/V content for wagering games presented at a gaming machine and at a computing device

A second key distinction in claim 1 is that the combination of Harkham and Cannon does not disclose offering A/V content on a server for a first wagering game presented at a gaming machine. The Examiner correctly concedes that Harkham does not disclose the A/V content as claimed. Office Action, at 5, ll. 4-6. The Office Action cites the web server 124 embodiment (Cannon, 10:5-13, 14:44-64, 20:6-19) in Cannon to argue that Cannon discloses the A/V content as claimed. Applicants disagree. Cannon discloses a web server 124 embedded into the gaming device 70. Cannon, 10:5-13; FIG. 5. The embedded web server 124 is coupled to a web-based device 150 that receives real-time gaming images appearing on the gaming machine 70. Cannon, 20:35-41. The web-based device 150 can be "a workstation such as a personal computer." Cannon, 20:9-10. For ease of discussion, an illustration of Cannon's web server embodiment is shown below.

Cannon
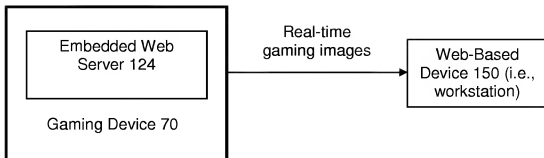
The web server 124 generates a web page that transmits "real-time gaming images" appearing on the gaming machine 70 to a web-based device 150. Cannon, 20:35-41. Cannon's web server 124 does not store A/V content for a wagering game presented at a gaming machine. Cannon's web-based device 150 is a workstation such as a computer. Cannon, 20:9-10. As a consequence, Cannon's web-based device 150 also fails to provide an award for a winning outcome of the random event of any wagering game, as recited in claim 1. In addition, Cannon's web server 124 does not store the RNG software for a game presented at a computing device. The purpose of Cannon's web-based system is to allow a remote user to watch game play on a gaming device 70, not to offer a central repository of wagering games that can be presented at different devices such as on gaming machines in a casino or computing devices via a reconfigurable network.

No Prima Facie Case of Obviousness Has Been Made

Taking Harkham and Cannon together, the Office Action fails to set forth a prima facie case for obviousness. The Harkham-Cannon combination singularly and collectively fails to disclose (1) offering computer-generated A/V content on a central server for a first wagering game conducted via a gaming machine; (2) offering game software for generating a random event on a central server for a second wagering game conducted via a computing device; (3) presenting the computer-generated A/V content for the first wagering game at the gaming machine; or (4) generating at the central server a random event for the second wagering game conducted via the computing device.

The other independent claims include similar elements as recited in claim 1, so the above analysis equally applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to the other independent claims.

Applicants repeat and incorporate by reference herein the previous extensive remarks and arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims as set forth in the response dated May 15, 2008.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

A Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time and associated fee are submitted concurrently with this paper. It is believed that no additional fees are presently due; however, should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 50-4181/247079-000125USPT for any fees inadvertently omitted which may be necessary now or during the pendency of this application, except for the issue fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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